

**MINUTES**  
**WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL**  
July 21, 2015  
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Brian Sager on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Sager explained the consent calendar process and invited public participation.

A roll call was taken.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Daniel Hart, RB Thompson, Maureen Larson, Mark Saladin, Joseph Starzynski, and Mayor Brian Sager

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Turner

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt, Planning and Zoning Director Joe Napolitano, Chief Robert Lowen, Grant Writer Terry Willcockson, Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Mike McCleary, and Transportation Commission Chairman Andrew Celentano.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Clerk Cindy Smiley

**FLOOR DISCUSSION**

**Proclamation Honoring WHS 2015 Engineering Design & Development Class**

Mayor Sager stated this evening the City is very happy to celebrate something that was accomplished by students at Woodstock High School and that those students are present. He noted that their accomplishment is a true reflection of people within the community identifying a need and then making it happen. He congratulated the students who looked at a situation, developed a plan to address the need, and then carried out the plan.

Mayor Sager explained that the Donato Conservation Area has been a wonderful area where students have been given the opportunity to have hands-on study of the environment and the plants and animals unique to the area, and members of the public have had the opportunity to enjoy nature. He noted, however, that this unique area presented a mobility challenge, and there was a need for paths in this wetland. This need was identified by the students, who then developed a plan and built walkways to be installed within the area to make it more usable for the students and the public.

Mayor Sager noted that Transportation Chairman Andrew Celentano worked diligently with the students to make this project come to fruition and has been pivotal in identifying transportation projects, including pathways, sidewalks, bike paths, and public transportation in addition to roadways. He also commented that Mr. Celentano has recognized that one of the community's greatest resources is our young people. He stated further that a project like this could not be completed without funding and that the City Grant Writer Terry Willcockson identified and secured grants through a Com/Ed grant program to fund the project. He also recognized Dean Breuer, representing Com/Ed. Mayor Sager thanked Mr. Celentano, Ms. Willcockson, and Mr. Breuer for their work on this project.

Mayor Sager then recognized Steve Thompson, teacher of the Engineering Design & Development Class for his role in guiding these students and Dr. Justin Smith, Principal of Woodstock High School

Thanking all for their participation in making this happen, Mayor Sager asked all to come to the podium where he presented them with a Proclamation honoring and recognizing their efforts.

All were acknowledged with applause from those present.

Mayor Sager then asked the students to step forward where he recognized them individually for their efforts, presenting them with individual certificates of appreciation. Recognized were Jon Cunningham, Jack Fischbach, Blake Kahoun, Zack Myers, and Cole Richter. The young men were also acknowledged with applause from those present.

Mayor Sager then invited those present to view the prototype of the pathway, which is present in the parking lot, as they leave this evening's meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Helga Housner, 318 W. South Street, approached Council to comment on speeding cars traveling down South Street, noting that children are often present and pedestrian students travel down South Street as well. Noting further that there are no speed signs in this area, she requested that the City install these signs.

Mayor Sager thanked Ms. Housner for her concerns and confirmed that the City would do the following:

- 1) Increase Police enforcement in the area in an attempt to change drivers' behavior;
- 2) Install any necessary speed limit signage;
- 3) Look at the possibility of installing "Children Playing" signage in the area. Mayor Sager did caution Ms. Housner that there are certain criteria for the installation of this type of signage, but that the City would investigate the situation.

Ms. Housner thanked the Mayor and Council.

Scott Gessert, 810 Gerry Street, addressed the Council concerning the proposed allocation by Council of \$150,000 to the District 200 Renaissance Project, commonly known as the "turf" project. Mayor Sager noted that the Council has budgeted up to \$100,000 for this project, with the amount to be equal to that matched by District 200 up to \$100,000. He further noted that these funds have not been allocated, but rather identified in this fiscal year's budget.

Mr. Gessert noted that the School Board unanimously declined this project but stated he still has deep concerns about it. He wished to let Council know that a school board in California has allocated millions of dollars for a three-year study on the effects of crumb rubber on students. He listed a number of other communities that have made the decision not to allow this material on their athletic fields.

### **Council Comments**

Mayor Sager noted that this had been a busy weekend in Woodstock.

He then thanked City staff for organizing and conducting the second annual Summer in the Park community celebration, noting the significant challenges they faced due to the weather.

Mayor Sager then noted that 2,500 people attended the Gavers Barndance despite the weather, raising a significant amount of money.

He stated that Folk Fest was also very well attended and that the Woodstock Summer Children's Theatre performed Lion King Jr. at the Opera House to rave reviews.

He thanked the Department of Public Works and the Police Department for their work on all of these events.

Mayor Sager stated the ULI TAP Report has been received and is now available for view on the City's website.

He expressed gratitude to the Promote Woodstock, Inc. group for the exceptional job they have done, noting the presentation made this week of their new campaign, "Real Woodstock."

Mayor Sager then congratulated Copy Express on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda:

- Item E3 at the request of Councilman Hart.
- Item E5 at the request of Councilman Saladin

Motion by M. Larson, second by M. Saladin, to approve Consent Agenda Items B, C, D, and E1, E2, E4, and E6-9.

Mayor Sager opened the floor to questions from Council members and the Public concerning those items remaining on the Consent Agenda.

#### Item C - Warrants

RB Thompson congratulated the Finance Department on their new software, noting the new format of the warrants.

#### Item E7 – Safe Routes to School Design Agreement

RB Thompson expressed his approval of the expansion of the SRTS Program to other neighborhoods. Mayor Sager noted that these sidewalks are good for the community as a whole, not just school children.

#### Item E8 – Change Order – Greta Avenue Storm Sewer Project

In response to a question from M. Saladin, J. Van Landuyt stated that this is part of the retention/detention project in the Golden Avenue area. In response to further questioning, Mr. Van

Landuyt stated that while there still will be water in the detention/retention areas, as that is what they are designed for, the water should not reach the level that it was previously in heavy rain events.

A roll call vote was taken on the following items remaining on the Consent Agenda:

**B. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

June 16, 2015 City Council Workshop

**C. WARRANTS: 3669 3670 3671 3672 3673**

**D. MINUTES AND REPORTS:**

Police Department – May 2015

**E. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 49**

**1. Appointments – Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem** – Approval of the appointments of Councilman Mike Turner as Mayor Pro Tempore and Councilman Mark Saladin as Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore for the City of Woodstock.

**2. Donato Conservation Walkway Grant** – Adoption of Resolution 15-R-17, identified as Document No. 1, authorizing project completion funds for the ComEd/Openlands Green Region Pathways to Education at the William C. Donato Conservation Area.

**4. Intergovernmental Agreement – MCAT** – Approval of Resolution 15-R-18, identified as Document No. 2, authorizing execution of a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Major Crash Assistance Team of Northeastern McHenry County (MCAT).

**6. Purchase – Pickup Truck** – Approval of the purchase of a replacement pickup truck for the Parks Division through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program from Bob Ridings Fleet Sales for the total bid price of \$24,500.

**7. Safe Routes to School Design Agreement** – Approval of an agreement with Hampton, Lenzini, and Renwick for professional services in an amount not to exceed \$38,205 to complete the design, plans, and specifications for the construction of sidewalk constructed with Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Grant Funds.

**8. Change Order – Greta Avenue Storm Sewer Project** – Adoption of Resolution No. 15-R-19, identified as Document No. 3, authorizing Change Order 001 for the construction of the Autumn Ridge Relief Storm Basin.

**9. MFT Resolution** – Adoption of Resolution No. 15-R-20, identified as Document No. 4, concurring with the appropriation of an additional \$161,048.03 of MFT funds from May 1, 2014 thru April 30, 2015 for FY14/15 maintenance projects.

Ayes: D. Hart, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, and Mayor Sager. Nays: none. Abstentions: None. Absentees: M. Turner. Motion carried.

Mayor Sager expressed his appreciation to Councilman Turner and Councilman Saladin for agreeing to serve as Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem respectively.

Councilman D. Hart recused himself at 7:42PM

**Item E3 – E-1 Liquor Application Moratorium Waiver**

Mayor Sager noted that this item was a request from the new owner of La Placita Tacqueria, located at 108 Cass Street, for a waiver of the moratorium on an application for a liquor license.

Edgardo Urbina, Owner, stated it is his wish to serve beer and wine only to enhance the meals of his patrons. He noted that he has had several requests for this additional service. He further stated that he does not drink and does not intend to put in a bar, but only serve beer and wine as a complement to food. Mr. Urbina then stated that he does not intend to put in any gaming machines as he wants his restaurant to maintain a family environment.

Lisa Hanson, co-owner of the Backdrop at 106 Cass Street, stated that this issue goes back to April 7<sup>th</sup> when Council passed an ordinance putting in a moratorium on most liquor license classifications. She read from Mayor Sager's memo from that meeting in which he stated it is the City's responsibility to "protect the public health and safety relative to licensing the sale of a controlled substance, and to further the previously expressed intent to regulate the orderly growth of liquor establishments in the City..." Ms. Hanson stated she was encouraged by this because she felt it meant Council would think about the types of licenses being issued and limit the expansion of video gaming. She stated that while Mr. Urbina states that he will not offer video gaming, by giving him a liquor license, the City is giving him the prerogative to change his mind. She does not want an establishment with video gaming in her backyard and noted that there are many establishments within two blocks of her business which offer video gaming. She asked the City Council to stop and think before issuing any more liquor licenses.

Ms. Hanson further said the City Council should look at the number of liquor licenses and video gaming licenses issued and say "enough." She expressed her opinion that serious altercations and incidents are occurring as a result of the proliferation of liquor and video gaming licenses which are only adding to the problems. Noting the Police Chief's most recent police report indicates a 20% increase in crime, Ms. Hanson expressed her view that video gaming has increased crime.

Mayor Sager acknowledged Ms. Hanson's comments agreeing that if a bar or restaurant liquor license is approved, the licensee has the right to apply for a video gaming license. He stated; however, that many people within the community are calling for the City Council to bring more restaurants to Woodstock. He noted that these restaurants likely will ask for a liquor license as this is part of their business plan. He stated that one reason a moratorium was placed on liquor license applications is to give Council the opportunity to ask these questions prior to approving the license. He further noted that, not only is there a moratorium, but there is currently a strict limitation on the number of bars by population, on convenience stores both by population and geographic location, on liquor stores both by population and geographic location, and on gas stations by population.

Mayor Sager stated that the petitioner has stated he will not have video gaming and expressed his confidence in that statement. He noted, however, that should that occur, the Council has the power to refuse to renew the liquor license at renewal time. In response to Ms. Hanson's assertion that Council has never done that, Mayor Sager stated that it is because Council has never been faced with the circumstances which would call for such action.

In response to Ms. Hanson's comments concerning the number of liquor establishments within the area of her business, he stated it is expected that this would be the case as the Square is the dining, shopping, and entertainment area of the City.

Ms. Hanson expressed her opinion that it is irresponsible of Council to concentrate these businesses in a 2 block area and is irresponsible in terms of protecting public safety.

Edgardo Urbina, owner of La Placita, stated he appreciates Ms. Hanson's concerns and then again assured Council that he will not put in video gaming machines. He stated further that the safety of his guests and employees mean much more to him than any money he would get from the machines.

In response to a brief Council discussion on an increase in crime, Chief Lowen stated he would include this information in next month's Police Report to Council. In response to further questioning, he stated that the largest increase in crime was related to shoplifting.

Motion by M. Larson, second by J. Starzynski, to waive the moratorium on the acceptance of a Class E-1 liquor license application for Edgardo Urbina/La Placita Restaurant for property located at 108 Cass Street.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, and Mayor Sager. Nays: none. Absentees: D. Hart and M. Turner. Abstentions: none. Motion carried.

Councilman D. Hart returned to the Council Chambers and rejoined the body at 7:57 PM.

#### **Item E5 – Main Field A Fence Purchase**

M. Saladin stated he feels that Field A is in need of improvements, but also that the cost of this proposal raises some questions that should be discussed.

R. Stelford detailed some of the added improvements and changes in design that resulted in an increased cost for this project, including arched backstops that will result in increased safety for players and spectators and improved dug outs. In addition, he noted that it is proposed to use vinyl-coated fencing like that used at Merryman Fields, which is sturdier and lasts longer, but comes with a significant higher cost.

J. Van Landuyt noted that the last fields built or to undergo significant improvements were Merryman Fields in 2006 and that the costs proposed for Field A improvements represent about a 4% per year increase which is to be expected. It was further noted that these costs were not identified at the time of the grant application as the City was under an application deadline.

In response to a question from RB Thompson, J. Van Landuyt noted that no grading will be done in the outfield but that drainage should improve in the infield which was one of the requirements of the grant.

Discussion followed of field usage, with R. Stelford stating that these improvements will make this field a field of first choice.

Mayor Sager stated the question is whether Council wishes to proceed with the added costs. He noted that he has been concerned in the past with the piecemeal approach that has been taken on certain projects which has resulted in higher overall costs. This, he stated, would allow this project to come to fruition and would be a more efficient use of the people's resources which is a responsible approach.

In response to a question from Mayor Sager, R. Stelford stated there are projects in the General Corporate CIP fund which are expected to come in under the budgeted amount resulting in savings which could be put to this project. He also noted that there would be sufficient funds in the General Fund should that not occur. He further stated that if staff felt it necessary a hold could be placed on other projects but that this project is a priority because it is partially funded through a grant.

M. Saladin stated he was supportive of this project in light of Baseball Tomorrow Fund's willingness to fund it and the quality of the field that will result. It is his opinion that it should match the quality of the other fields.

Motion by M. Saladin, second by J. Starzynski, to approve award of contract for improvements at Emricson Main Field "A" to remove existing fence, backstop, footings, dugouts, and associated appurtenances along with furnishing and installing new fence, an arched backstop, footings, dugouts with concrete pads, associated appurtenances and site restoration to the lowest responsible bidder Northern Illinois Fence for a cost not-to-exceed \$114,600.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: D. Hart, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, and Mayor Sager. Nays: none. Absentees: M. Turner. Abstentions: none. Motion carried.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no amendments to the Future Agenda Items.

### **ADJOURN**

Motion by M. Larson, second by RB Thompson, to adjourn this meeting of the Woodstock City Council to the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Ayes: D. Hart, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, and Mayor Sager. Nays: none. Absentees: M. Turner. Abstentions: none. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smiley  
City Clerk